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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ILLINOIS MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARM AND AMMUNITION AS ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that LARRY JAMES AMES, 30, Cumberland County, Illinois, was sentenced as an Armed Career Criminal to 15 years imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge John Daniel Tinder following his guilty plea to felon in possession of firearm and ammunition. This case was the result of a investigation by the Vincennes Police Department, the Indiana State Police, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

On July 16, 2001, Ames was contacted by the Vincennes Police Department and the Indiana State Police while working a police investigation in Knox County, Indiana. Ames, an unlicensed driver in Indiana, drove to the location of the officers in a truck he admitted he

possessed. The truck was searched and a Jennings .380 caliber handgun and 90 rounds of ammunition were located. AMES has been convicted of 10 felonies since 1991, including residential and commercial burglary, obstruction of justice, possession of ammunition by a felon, and battery. AMES pleaded guilty to the current charges on February 13, 2003.

Persons who possess firearms after felony convictions face up to ten years imprisonment. Persons who possess firearms after three previous violent or drug trafficking felony convictions face sentencing as an Armed Career Criminal—and a minimum, mandatory sentence of 15 years.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Gayle L. Helart, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Tinder also imposed 5 years supervised release following Ames' release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, AMES must undergo drug testing and submit to search and seizure for contraband.

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